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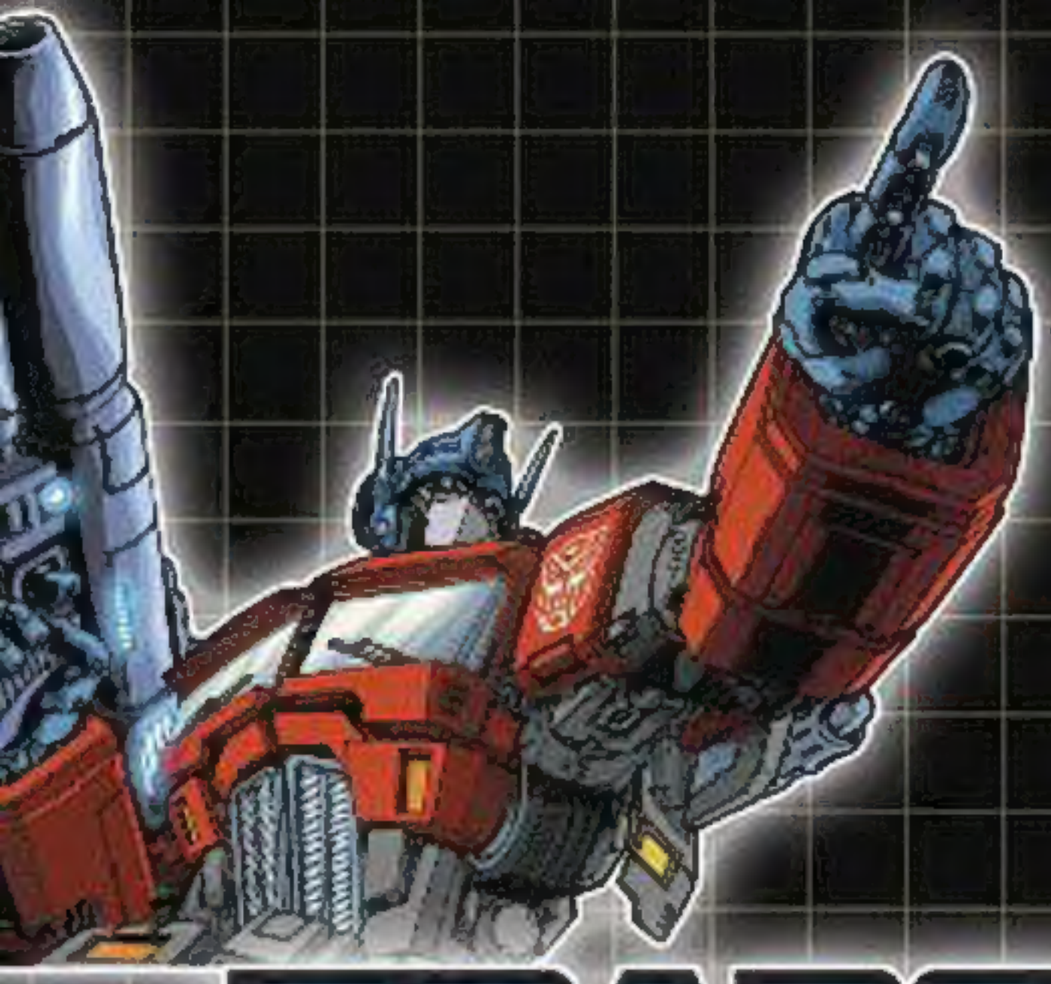
THE TRANSFORMERS



THE TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE #14 CREDITS

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STORY SO FAR:

When rouge Combaticons attack South Korea in the name of a ruthless dictator, Skywatch and the Autobots quickly assemble a team to resolve the situation. Only one problem: the President of the United States has condemmed any nation that allies itself with Cybertronians. Keeping the operation under wraps, the Autobots confront the Combaticons, only to have the Predacons intervene. As the meele plays out, Skywatch's cover is blown and the whole situation escalates dangerously. Although the Autobots succeed in taking down the threats, Bumblebee feels the need to communicate with the people of America and let them know where Autobot loyalties lay. The event is cut short by a crazed gunman that shoots Bumblebee down...

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DADDY, LOOK! YOU CAN REALLY SEE THE RINGS!

YES, HONEY, IT'S REALLY NEAT. COME INSIDE NOW.

JOE GLADKI WAS WORRYING ABOUT OUTER SPACE.

WHEN THERE WAS A HOME INVASION DOWN THE STREET, JOE INSTALLED A BURGLAR ALARM AND SET UP NEW PERIMETER LIGHTS.

HE ALSO BOUGHT A GUN.

BECAUSE IF A MAN CAN'T PROTECT HIS FAMILY, WHAT GOOD IS HE AS A MAN?

THAT WAS THE QUESTION KEEPING JOE AWAKE AT PARANOID AND ANXIOUS HOURS.

HOW DO YOU PROTECT FROM THIS KIND OF AN INVASION?

BNN

HOPELESSNESS IS A SICKNESS. AND PEOPLE WILL DO MOST ANYTHING TO FIND THE CURE.

EVEN SOMETHING ILLEGAL AND BORDERLINE INSANE.

LIKE ORDERING AN EXOTIC, UNTESTED, POSSIBLY EXTRATERRESTRIAL PIECE OF EQUIPMENT.

LIKE HIDING IT FROM HIS FAMILY.

LIKE NOT SAYING ANYTHING WHEN THE RADIO STARTS TALKING TO HIM.

LIKE LISTENING TO IT.

HOLY–

NOOO!

DON'T HURT HIM! DON'T *HURT* HIM!

DON'T HURT HIM?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THEY HAVE TO BE *STOPPED!* THEY HAVE TO BE *STOPPED!*

GET HIM OUT OF HERE!

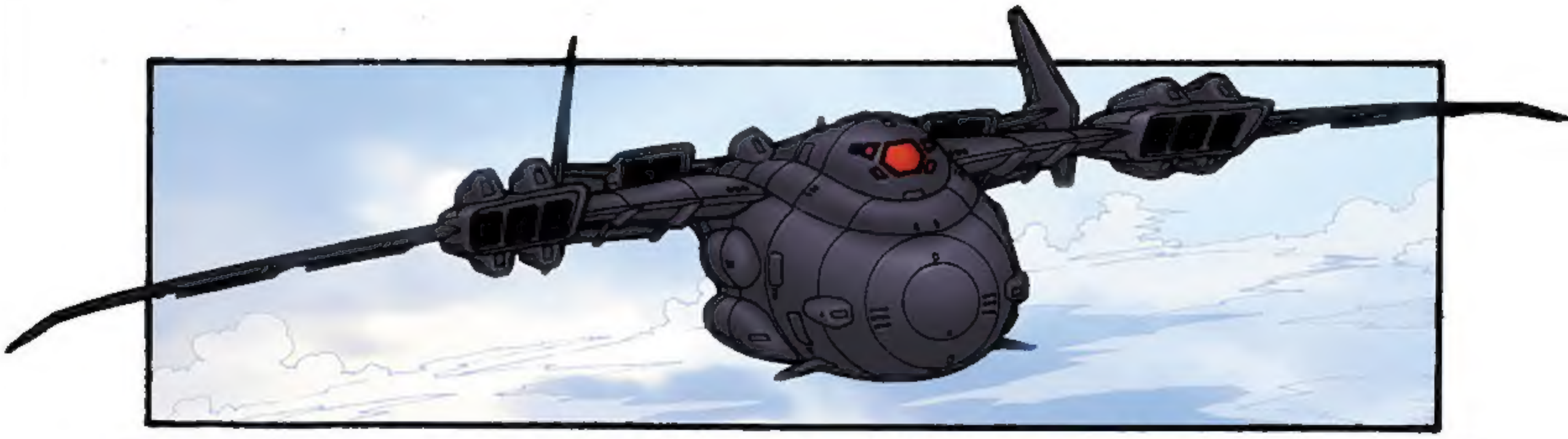
ARE YOU PEOPLE *INSANE?!* THEY'RE HERE TO KILL US ALL! THEY'RE GOING TO-

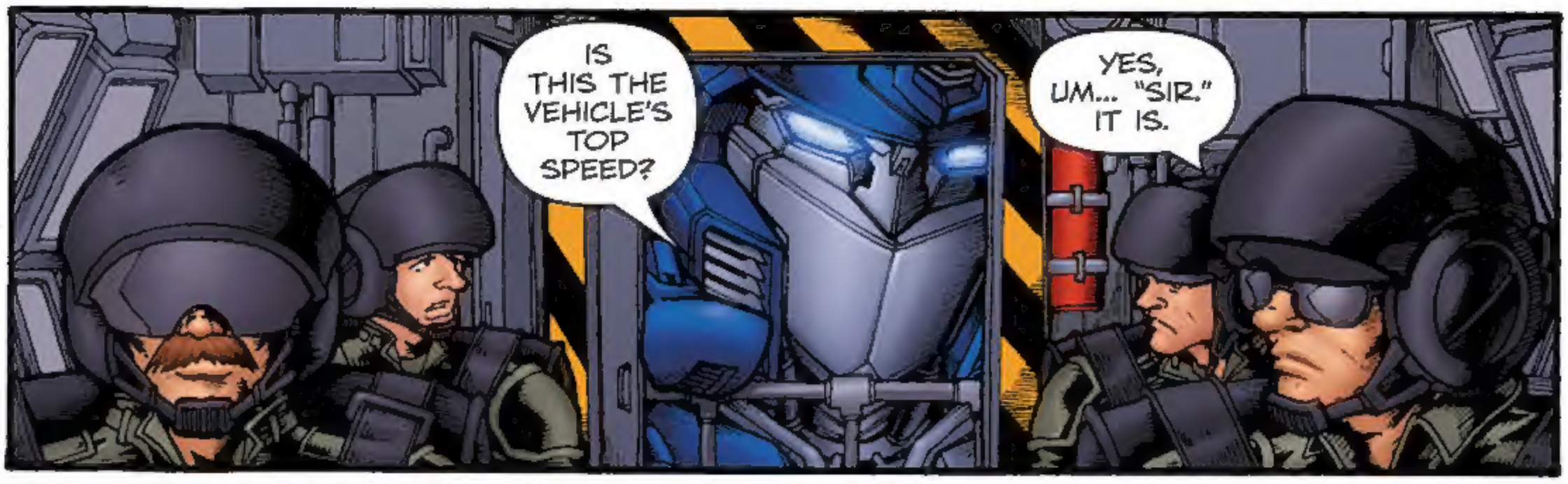
CONTROL THIS CROWD! WE NEED MORE PEOPLE OUT HERE!

SIR! WE'VE GOT THE WEAPON!

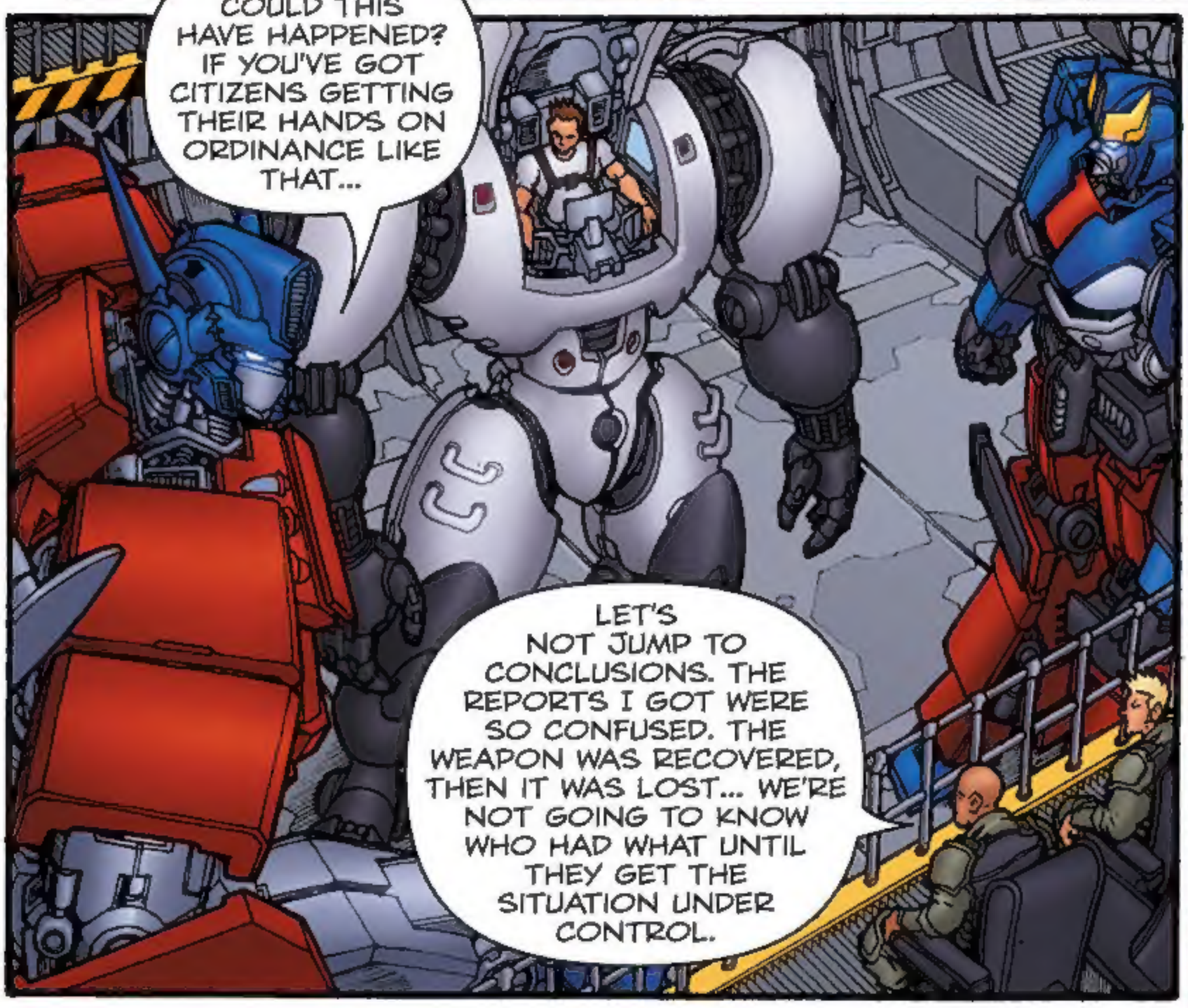
WHAT THE HELL IS...

...NO.




IS THIS THE VEHICLE'S TOP SPEED?
YES, UM... "SIR." IT IS.

YOU GOTTA RELAX, PRIME. WE'RE GETTING THERE AS FAST AS WE CAN, AND WORRY WON'T GET US THERE FASTER.


HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED? IF YOU'VE GOT CITIZENS GETTING THEIR HANDS ON ORDINANCE LIKE THAT...
LET'S NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS. THE REPORTS I GOT WERE SO CONFUSED. THE WEAPON WAS RECOVERED, THEN IT WAS LOST... WE'RE NOT GOING TO KNOW WHO HAD WHAT UNTIL THEY GET THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

YEAH, WELL I THOUGHT *YOU* GUYS WERE THE ONLY PEOPLE WITH WEAPONS LIKE THAT. YOU'RE SPREADING IT AROUND NOW?!

OF COURSE NOT! WE DON'T WANT NORMAL PEOPLE WITH THOSE WEAPONS ANY MORE THAN YOU DO.

YEAH? WELL YOU DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW ABOUT THIS MISSION EITHER, AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED. I'M THINKING YOU'VE GOT TO GET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER, MAN!

THANKS, PRIME.

THAT'S ENOUGH, SMOKESCREEN. SPIKE ISN'T TO BLAME FOR THIS.

THAT SAID, CLEARLY THERE ARE SOME LARGE ENDEMIC PROBLEMS THAT WILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. AFTER WE TEND TO BUMBLEBEE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT THIS SITUATION.

WHOA. PRIME'S MAD.

DOES ANYBODY ELSE SUDDENLY HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING?

THAT'S WEIRD.

WHAT?

MY READOUTS SAY SOMETHING IS COMING IN...BUT IT'S JUST MOVING WAY TOO FAST. NOTHING MOVES LIKE THAT. THESE INSTRUMENTS ARE PROBABLY STILL BUGGY, BECAUSE–

GET YOUR CRASH-SUITS ON! NOW!

HOW CAN YOU *KEEP* THIS HERE?

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? COPS AREN'T USED TO WEAPONS THAT–

DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS? THAT'S *MEGATRON!* *MEGATRON!*

I DON'T KNOW. FROM WHAT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT MEGATRON, HE SHOOTS SOMEONE AND THEY DIE.

HEY PAL, WHO THE HELL ARE YOU TO TELL ME WHAT I KNOW AND WHAT I DON'T?!

WHO AM I? I'M THE ONLY PERSON KEEPING YOUR FRIEND ALIVE! AND YOUR BEING HYSTERICAL IS NOT HELPING!

BUDDY, YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BRAWN. LEAVE IT.

OR WHAT, MAGNUS? YOU'LL ARREST ME?

ENOUGH. I'M STUCK HERE, JUST LIKE YOU. AND I DON'T LIKE THIS EITHER.

BUT IF YOU DON'T GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF NOW, YOU WILL BE RESTRAINED. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME? I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS. I'D RATHER HAVE YOU UP HERE WITH US.

SO... HOW'S HE DOING?

I DON'T KNOW. NOT GREAT. THERE'S SO MUCH I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR PHYSIOLOGY. I THINK I CAN KEEP HIM ON-LINE, BUT UNTIL RATCHET GETS HERE, HE WON'T BE GETTING OFF THIS TABLE.

WELL, THAT'S JUST A FEW HOURS FROM NOW, RIGHT?

GUYS...

FIVE MINUTES AGO?

YES.

AND NO DISTRESS SIGNALS HAVE BEEN ACTIVATED?

NO, BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF REASONS–

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

–WE DON'T KNOW. SOMETHING CAME IN VERY, VERY FAST FROM VERY HIGH. IT WASN'T ANY EARTH VEHICLE WE KNOW OF.

RECOVERY TEAMS?

ON THEIR WAY. FIVE HOURS.

NOT FAST ENOUGH...

SIR, WE'VE GOT PROTESTERS OUTSIDE. THEY'RE ON THE NEWS.

MARIA, OUR OPERATIONAL COMMANDER AND FIRST LIEUTENANT ARE LOST OVER THE PACIFIC. THREE OF MY BEST FRIENDS, PLUS THE ENTIRE AUTOBOT COMMAND STRUCTURE. WE HAVE BEEN TOTALLY DECAPITATED HERE. I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT *PR* RIGHT NOW.

YOU NEED TO SEE THIS, SIR.

-AS SPOKESPERSON FOR THIS MOVEMENT, "*EARTH'S CHILDREN,*" CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE EVENTS EARLIER TODAY, WITH AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON THE AUTOBOT LEADER?

REP SIMPSON

FIRST OF ALL, NINA, WE'VE GOT TO GET SOME DEFINITIONS STRAIGHT. THIS ISN'T SOME ORGANIZED "MOVEMENT." IT'S JUST A LOT OF MEN AND WOMEN GIVING VOICE TO THE SAME CONCERN THAT MILLIONS OF OTHERS HAVE.

ALSO, WE ARE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SO-CALLED ASSASSIN, THOUGH I TAKE UMBRAGE WITH THAT WORD AS WELL. WHO CAN EVEN QUALIFY THESE THINGS AS BEING ALIVE?

WELL, METAPHYSICAL ARGUMENTS ASIDE, HIS WIFE HAS ALREADY TOLD THE AUTHORITIES THAT HE'D BEEN SPENDING MORE AND MORE TIME ON "EARTH'S CHILDREN" MESSAGE BOARDS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

WELL, SURELY WE AREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR WHOEVER IN THE WORLD CHOOSES TO POST ON A WEBSITE OPEN TO EVERYONE.

IS IT POSSIBLE HE FOUND MOTIVATION FOR HIS ATTACK IN THE RHETORIC POSTED THERE? CRITICS HAVE LABELED A LOT OF YOUR PHILOSOPHIES AS "REACTIONARY."

THAT'S ABSURD. MARIA, THERE ARE LITERALLY EXTRATERRESTRIALS WALKING AROUND ON THE SURFACE OF OUR PLANET. GIGANTIC ROBOTS WHO WANT TO KILL US.

OUR CURRENT ADMINISTRATION IS REVEALED TO BE IN COLLUSION WITH THESE BEINGS. HOW CAN ANYONE CALL NON-VIOLENT PROTESTS OF THIS "REACTIONARY"?

I DOUBT ANYONE WOULD CALL WHAT HAPPENED TODAY "NON-VIOLENT." IN FACT, THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION HELPS SUPPLY ADVANCED WEAPONRY TO ITS MEMBERS.

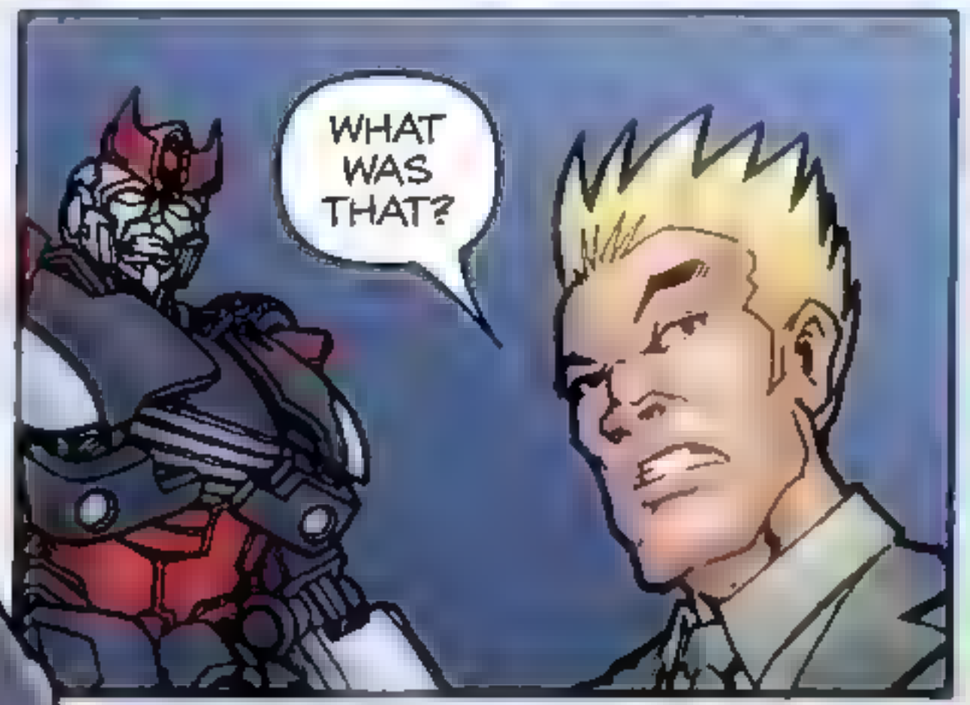
WE AREN'T BREAKING ANY LAWS.

LEGISLATION IS BEING PUSHED THROUGH CONGRESS AS WE SPEAK TO ADDRESS THESE VERY ISSUES.

WE'LL SEE IF IT PASSES, WON'T WE? IF OUR GOVERNMENT WON'T LET US PROTECT OURSELVES FROM INVADERS FROM SPACE, OF WHAT USE IS OUR GOVERNMENT?

THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET EVEN WORSE, AREN'T THEY?

FREE
YOU HAVE TO DISPERSE! THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA!
YOU'RE HOLDING A PRIVATE CITIZEN IN THERE!
YOU'RE A TRAITOR TO YOUR SPECIES! YOUR FRIENDS IN THERE WILL KILL US ALL!
NOBODY IS GONNA GET KILLED TODAY! PLEASE DISPERSE, THERE IS NO THREAT HERE.


WHAT WAS THAT?

THE HOLDING CELLS!

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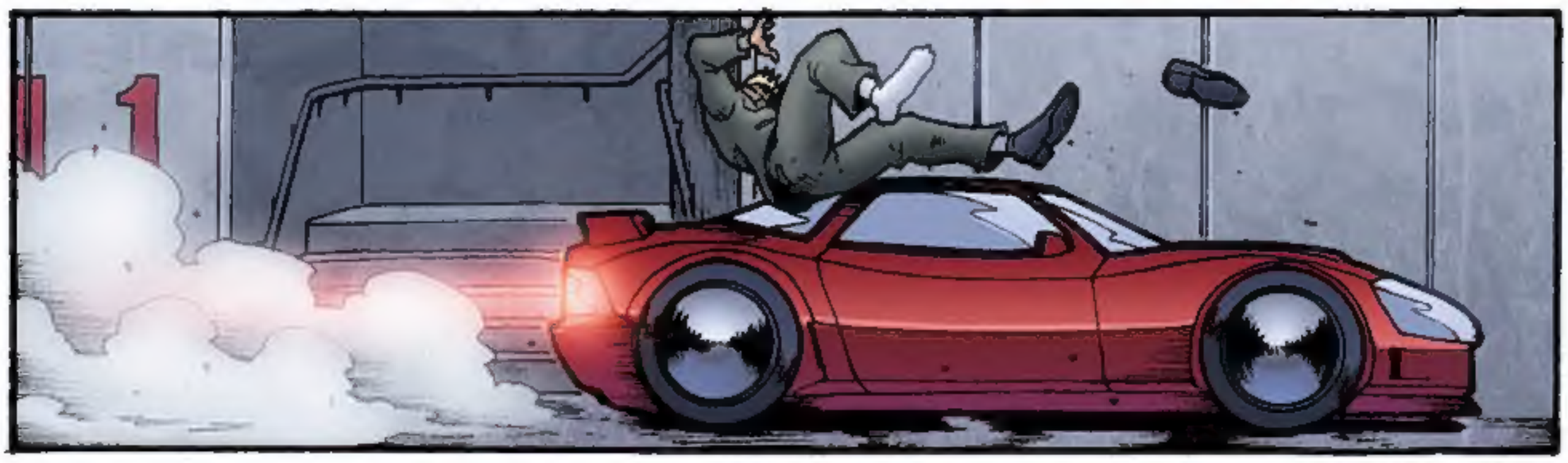
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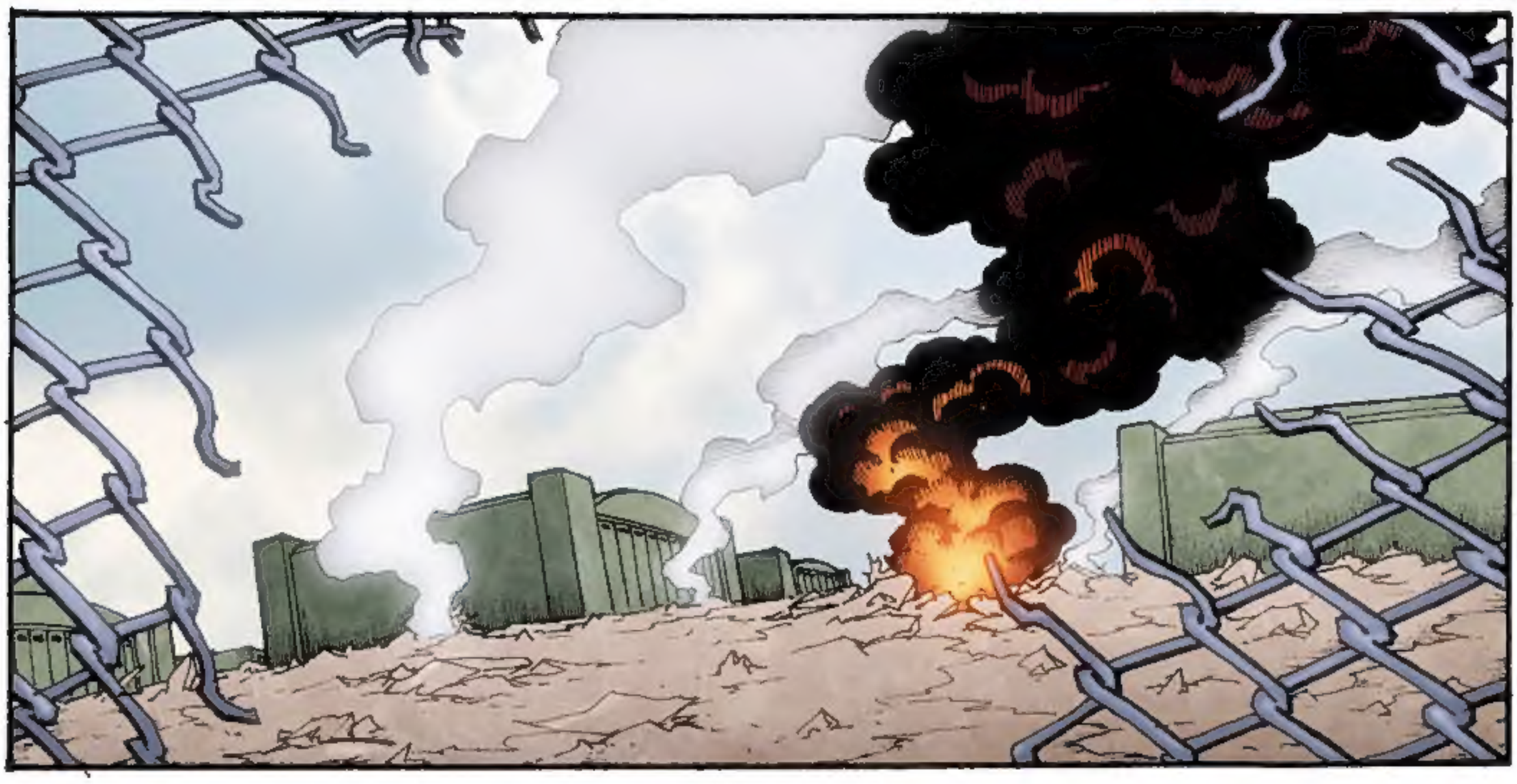

QUETZALTENANGO IS WHAT THEY CALL IT ON THE MAPS. BUT EVERYONE WHO LIVES THERE CALLS IT *XELA*. EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS AGO, IT WAS THE CAPITOL OF AN EMPIRE THAT LASTED A MILLENNIUM.

CARLOS TUYUC NEVER KNEW HIS HISTORY, AND HAD NEVER EVEN SEEN A MAP.

BUT CARLOS HAD A VERY IMPORTANT JOB.

SOMETHING HAD FALLEN FROM THE SKY FOUR MONTHS BEFORE. SOMETHING THAT BURNED THE MOUNTAIN PLAINS FOR DAYS, AND GLOWED AT NIGHT, EVEN AFTER THE FIRES WERE OUT.

CARLOS WENT OUT THERE THE FIRST NIGHT, TO SEE WHAT IT WAS.

NO ONE IN THE CITY TALKED ABOUT IT, BUT AFTER CARLOS SHOWED HIS UNCLE, MORE MEN CAME. HE TOLD THEM A HUGE, SILVER GOD HAD FALLEN FROM THE SKY AND BROUGHT WEAPONS. AND PEOPLE NEEDED THOSE WEAPONS.

IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING FROM THE OLD STORIES, BUT IT WAS HAPPENING THERE, IN FRONT OF THE EYES OF HIS PEOPLE.

IN THIS CITY THAT HISTORY HAD PAPERED OVER..

...AN EMPIRE FOUND A NEW PLACE OF POWER.

REVENGE OF THE DECEPTICONS PART 1: THE DEMOLISHED MAN

CONTINUED!